

**STATE OF WYOMING**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – AIR QUALITY DIVISION**

**Vegetative Material Open Burning Guide**

Vegetative material may be burned only under certain conditions under Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations, Chapter 10, Section 2, Open burning restrictions. The WDEQ-AQD District Compliance staff will administer WAQSR Chapter 10, Section 2(g), ***Restrictions on vegetative material open burning***. (See WDEQ-AQD Contact Information)

Vegetative material open burns may only be conducted when all of the following conditions are met.

- ❑ The open burner defines the scope of their vegetative material open burn and ensures that it does not exceed 0.25 tons of PM<sub>10</sub> emissions per day. If it will exceed 0.25 tons of PM<sub>10</sub> emissions per day, it is a planned burn project subject to the requirements in WAQSR Chapter 10, Section 4, Smoke management requirements, which is administrated by the Cheyenne WDEQ-AQD staff. Refer to Tables A and B below for emissions equivalency conversions.
  - If areas or piles are on contiguous land and will be burned on the same day and by the same open burner, they are considered to be one open burn. For example, a farmer has cleaned out his irrigation headgates creating 10 piles that are each 24 cubic feet (3 ft wide, 4 ft long, 2 ft high) in size. The burning of all of the piles will occur in one day for a total of 240 cubic feet and is considered one open burn. Alternatively, a farmer may burn his laterals on the same day that the irrigation district is burning the main ditch connected to the farmer's laterals. Each of these would be considered a separate open burn, as even though they are being burned on the same day, different burners are responsible for each burn.
- ❑ Contact the jurisdictional fire authority(ies) responsible for the geographic area in which the open burn is to occur immediately prior to burn ignition.
- ❑ Attend and observe the burn periodically to determine the smoke dispersion, direction and impacts so that corrective action (e.g., notifying neighboring residents and extinguishing the burn) can be taken if necessary.
- ❑ No burning closer than 500 feet on other property to a neighboring residence, workplace, or other place where people congregate to minimize the impacts from smoke. The setback requirement does not apply to fenceline and irrigation ditch or canal burns.
  - Waivers may be requested from the WDEQ-AQD District Compliance Staff for the setback requirement in writing and in advance of ignition, outlining the reasons that a waiver is justified. (See WDEQ-AQD Open Burn Setback Waiver Form and WDEQ-AQD Contact Information)
- ❑ Comply with all local (city and county), state, and federal laws, regulations and ordinances relating to open burning.
- ❑ Comply with any restriction on burning issued by the city, county or state.
- ❑ By conducting an open burn, you shall give permission to WDEQ-AQD staff to enter and inspect the burn location for the purpose of a burn inspection. This permission extends for a maximum time of ten business days after the open burn is completed. Inspections during this 10-day period are to be conducted only after notification of the open burner.

Vegetative material burns that do not exceed 0.25 tons of PM<sub>10</sub> per day are subject to the requirements within WAQSR Chapter 10, Section 2(g), ***Restrictions on vegetative material open burning***, which is administered by the WDEQ-AQD District Compliance staff. Vegetative material burns that do exceed 0.25 tons of PM<sub>10</sub> per day are subject to the requirements within WAQSR Chapter 10, Section 4, Smoke management requirements, which is administered by the Cheyenne WDEQ-AQD staff. (See WDEQ-AQD Contact Information)

Table A. Acreage & Pile Volume / Emissions Equivalency Conversion

| <b><u>Vegetation Type</u></b> | <b><u>0.25 Tons PM<sub>10</sub> Emissions</u></b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Field Crops                   | 16 acres                                          |
| Shrub Land                    | 8 acres                                           |
| Forest                        | 6 acres                                           |
| Grass                         | 25 acres                                          |
| Weeds (ditches, fencelines)   | 12 acres                                          |
| Shrub/Forest Piles            | 1,250 cubic feet                                  |

Table B. Ditch and Fenceline Burn Width & Length / Emissions Equivalency Conversion to 0.25 Tons PM<sub>10</sub> Emissions (12 acres Weeds)

| <b><u>Width of Burn</u></b> | <b><u>Length of Burn</u></b> |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 foot                      | 103 miles                    |
| 2 feet                      | 52 miles                     |
| 3 feet                      | 34 miles                     |
| 4 feet                      | 26 miles                     |
| 5 feet                      | 21 miles                     |
| 6 feet                      | 17 miles                     |
| 7 feet                      | 15 miles                     |
| 8 feet                      | 13 miles                     |
| 9 feet                      | 11 miles                     |
| 10 feet                     | 10 miles                     |
| 15 feet                     | 7 miles                      |
| 20 feet                     | 5 miles                      |
| 30 feet                     | 3 miles                      |
| 40 feet                     | 3 miles                      |
| 50 feet                     | 2 miles                      |

*For additional widths, the length in miles equivalency can be obtained by dividing the quantity 103 by the average width in feet of the open burn. (For example: 103 ft-mi / 25 ft = 4 miles.)*